



West End Civic Association

General Meeting

March 8 – 7 pm

*United Methodist Church, Farmington Avenue
and South Whitney Street*

Agenda

New Strategic Plan for the West End

(WECA is updating its 2002 Strategic Plan; here is your opportunity to suggest priorities for the neighborhood.)

Announcement: March 25 Ceremony at Aetna to Honor Neighborhood Honor Roll Students

Other Announcements

Other Business

Thousands Will Get a Financial Boost with the Help of YWCA and VITA

The [YWCA Hartford Region](#) will serve as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) preparation site through April 15. A joint effort with the Hartford Asset Building Collaborative, VITA offers free income tax preparation for individuals and families with low-to-moderate income. This year, YWCA Hartford Region will be one of 20 participating VITA sites in the Hartford Region.

Volunteers sponsored by YWCA Hartford Region are trained and certified to prepare basic tax returns. Individuals who usually do not file because they do not owe any taxes are encouraged to visit a VITA site to find out if they qualify to receive a tax refund under the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program. All returns are processed electronically, so taxpayers can receive their tax refund quickly and have it directly deposited into their bank account.

In 2010, the Hartford VITA programs served 5,811 filers resulting in a savings of over \$1 million in tax preparation fees. In addition, over \$3 million in EITC's were claimed.

VITA hours at YWCA are Tuesdays 3 - 7 pm, Wednesdays 5 - 8 pm and Saturdays 9 am - 12 pm. To schedule an appointment, or for more information please call 211 (Infoline), or YWCA at (860) 525-1163 Ext. 450.

WECA TO MAKE COMMUNITY GRANTS, NOW SEEKING PROPOSALS

The West End Civic Association is excited to announce a fourth round of grants under its philanthropy effort to support projects that benefit the West End and its residents.

WECA will make grants in four categories and is seeking proposals at this time from individuals or organizations.

The categories are:

Community outreach: Grants to provide social services to residents of the West End.

Education: Grants to provide educational services to residents of the West End.

West End activities: Grants to provide services for youth in

the West End. Preference will be given to proposals for recreation programs.

Community building:

Grants for activities in the West End that bring the sectors and/or the neighborhood together.

The deadline to apply for a grant is March 15, except for community building. For that category, proposals will be accepted as they arise throughout the year. Preference will be given to applications submitted by the deadline; later applications will be considered if funds remain available.

It is expected that the Executive Board of WECA will

award grants at its April 5 meeting. Applicants will be notified of decisions following the meeting and recognized at the annual meeting of WECA on June 14.

Proposals must include:

- Description of the program/service/event and category under which you are applying
- How will it be organized? Who will manage it?
- Who will be served? How many will be served?
- Why is the program needed? – be specific in demonstrating the need
- How will the program

benefit the West End?

- Contact person for follow-up questions including email and phone number.
 - A line-item income and expense budget.
 - A list of other income sources, if any.
- State whether you are applying – or planning to use – matching grant(s). If so, please provide details. Preference will be given to new initiatives to meet the needs of West End residents, all other considerations being equal.

Grants

Continued on Page 2

Spring 2011 Park Water Arts events

Under the Park Watershed Revitalization Initiative, Park Water Arts has generated art actions and events that draw attention to the local values and design culture that shapes the Park Watershed. The spring Park Water Arts events includes the University of Hartford Humanities Center "Ecological Perspective" lecture series, which will typically be held on Tuesday evenings, 7:30pm in Dana 201 (Mali 1). On March 22, (World Water Day) the University of Hartford will also host "Water On Our Doorstep" a symposium that explores the past, present and future of the Park River Watershed, with emphasis on the North Branch. This symposium will include presentations by historians, scientists, engineers and planners.

On April 7th the Global Environmental Sustainability Action Coalition (GESAC) at Central Connecti-

cut State University (CCSU) will host 'Water, Life, and a Changing Planet' a conference that will address the relationship between local and global water resources with respect to climate change. An important exhibition of recent work of the artist, Mary Miss will open on Earth Day (April 22) at Joseloff Gallery. This exhibition "City as Living Laboratory" will feature a new study of the natural and built characteristics of the Park River's North Branch as it flows through the University of Hartford campus.

To receive a detailed events schedule, contact Sherry Buckberrough (Buckberro@hartford.edu) or Mary Pelletier marvp@parkwatershed.org. You may also visit our websites: www.parkwaterarts.org or www.parkwatershed.org.

Grants

Continued from Page 1

We encourage you to include letters of reference.

We do not have a cap on the size of a grant request other than a guideline that grants likely will be under \$2,500.

Grant recipients will be asked to submit a final report on the results of the project.

Grant applications should be submitted to David Barrett, WECA President, by email at d Barrett@hartsem.edu, by fax at (860) 509-9509 or by mail to 257 Oxford Street, Hartford, CT 06105.

If you have any questions, please contact David Barrett, (860) 509-9519 or d Barrett@hartsem.edu

The West End Civic Association is pleased to continue this program to strengthen our neighborhood. We look forward to working with all of you on programs to serve all our residents.

The Annual Canvass of Voters is Coming!!

The Office of the Registrars of Voters in each Connecticut municipality is required, by law, to conduct an annual canvass of voters that takes place each year between January 3 and May 30. During the first phase of the canvass each will receive a post card or Official Notice of Canvass. That card seeks specific information that allows

the Registrar to verify that voter records are accurate. The voter should never ignore that post card. Follow the instructions on it, fill it out and return it. It doesn't even require a stamp. The Registrar may determine that a visit to the voter's last known address is necessary based on the response to the Notice of Canvass. The final phase of the canvass consists of another mailing to all

voters who could not be reached by the initial mailing or the door to door visit.

The Office of the Registrars of Voters in the City of Hartford is preparing for the 2011 Annual Canvass of Voters and doesn't want anyone to be left out. The first mailing should reach voters, soon. When you get the card fill it out and return it. If you haven't received your CANVASS CARD, please contact the Registrars at (860) 757-9830.

WEST END YOUTH CLEANUP INITIATIVE

The West End Civic Association is looking for dependable and industrious youth from the neighborhood to hire for our West End Youth Cleanup Initiative.

WHY? - THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

- Provide the youth in the West End of Hartford with a job opportunity that is focused on developing a sense of community as well as an understanding of competitive employment.

- Impact the quality of life in the West End and make a visible improvement in the cleanliness of the neighborhood.

WHAT? - THE JOB DESCRIPTION

- Trash and Litter Removal
- Neighborhood Beautification
- Community Outreach
- Payment (stipend) will be \$30 a day
- Saturdays, 10-2pm; April-June
- Breakfast will be provided

WHO?- RECRUITMENT OF YOUTH

- Youth who reside in the Southeast and Southwest Sectors of the West End : South

of Farmington Avenue, north of Capitol Avenue, between Woodland Street and Prospect Avenue

- Youth who attend neighborhood schools (Noah Webster, Hartford High, West Middle, Classical Magnet)
 - Fifth Grade to High School Students
 - Potential youth employees must present a letter of reference from a parent and/or teacher
- Interview process with Marcia Hughes, WECA Board Member, Southeast Sector

Contact: Marcia Hughes, WECA Board, (860) 231-0136 or mhughes@hartford.edu

EARLY SPRING EVENTS AT THE CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March is **Women's History Month** and the CHS is celebrating with some final events surrounding the groundbreaking exhibit, "*Connecticut Needlework: Women, Art, and Family, 1740-1840.*" The exhibit closes on March 26.

On Thursday **March 24 at 5:30pm**, **Marla R. Miller**, an associate professor of history at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and the director of the public history program will discuss her recent book, *Betsy Ross and the Making of America*

In a richly woven biography of the beloved patriot Betsy Ross, Marla Miller

thoroughly reconstructs the life behind the legend and places her in the context of Philadelphia and the artisan families of the Revolutionary period.

FREE to the public.

Reception: 5:00pm,

Discussion: 5:30pm, Book Signing to follow.

On Saturday, **March 26 at 1:00pm**, two scholars will examine one of the masterpieces of the needlework exhibit from historic and artistic perspectives. Patty Oat & Deborah Ash will present "*A Legacy in Silk Threads: The Story of Prudence Punderson.*"

The fascinating stories behind Punderson's embroi-

dery, *The First, Second, and Last Scenes of Mortality* will be the centerpiece of this program. For reservations, please call (860) 236-5621 x238. **FREE** with general museum admission.

April Exhibits and events:

Tuesday, **April 12: *Echoes from Across the Ocean: Recent Work by Stanwyck Cromwell*** will open at the CHS (open through October 15). 35 collages, sculptures, paintings, and drawings by Guyanese-born artist Stanwyck Cromwell who has lived in Connecticut for almost 40 years. Cromwell uses saturated colors, pat-

terns, textures, and found objects to create dreamlike works that fuse memories of the Caribbean with American experiences, merging the past with the present and personal experiences with global movements.

Wednesday, **April 20, 6:00pm:** Book talk: Joshua Kendall: *The Forgotten Founding Father, Noah Webster's Obsession and the Creation of an American Culture*. Sponsored by the CHS and the Noah Webster House / West Hartford Historical Society. **FREE** for members of both organizations; \$8.00 for non-members. Reception (Wine and cheese) at 5:30pm.

Farmers' Market seeks Manager

The West End Farmers' Market is seeking an organized individual to assist and lead in the management, marketing and operations of our twice weekly market.

The successful candidate will be an effective and diplomatic organizer with initiative, creativity, an understanding and passion for local agricultural and food principles; with strong outreach, organizational, and marketing skills. Preference given to West End residents.

This is a paid part time seasonal position (April through Oct.) with primary responsibilities being outreach, marketing, delegation to committee members, event planning and day-to-day operation of the farmers' market. This includes an on-site presence at the market during all market hours, as well as off-site work during non-market hours. The manager and the work involved will be supported by the WEFM committee.

For more information please go to our website: www.westend.org/farmersmarket or contact via wefm.hartford@gmail.com.

Farmington Avenue Alliance needs your photos

Farmington Avenue Alliance is doing a public art project. If you have photos to share (without compensation) of Hartford locations, especially in the West End/Asylum Hill Farmington Avenue area, please send to Jill Barrett at jbarrett@farmingtonavenue.org by March 15th. Or call (860) 539-2038 for more information. Photos for potential use on new West End street banners could be of places, buildings, street views, people, neighborhood activities and events, restaurants, etc.

Free concert!!

The Parkville Classics presents the Adaskin Trio Plus in a free concert on Saturday April 2, 2011 at 7:30 pm at Grace Episcopal Church, 55 New Park Ave. Hartford. A reception follows to greet the musicians.

For further information:
Ellen M. Morse
(860) 649-6192

T
H
A
N
K
Y
O
U
T
O

 **Smith College
Adult Sports and
Fitness Camp**

FOR ADULTS INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT
AND MAINTAINING A FIT, HEALTHY AND
POSITIVE LIFESTYLE!

We offer a fun-filled week designed to entertain,
enliven and enrich your life. The week includes
instruction and play in **over 25 diverse activities**.

-Non-judgemental atmosphere - men, women,
couples, all ages, all fitness levels are welcome!

-Located on Smith College's campus in Northampton,
MA - a beautiful natural environment in the heart of
New England.

-Lectures, fitness testing, games and delicious meals
make this fun-filled week a place to meet great
people.

for registration,
schedule, full activity list
and more information visit
www.asfc.smith.edu

**June 12-18,
2011**



O
U
R
S
P
O
N
S
O
R
!

Questions? Contact Jan Klein, 860-232-2050 or jacefk@gmail.com

AQUA-AEROBICS BADMINTON CANOEING CROQUET CYCLING DIVING
EXERCISE MACHINES FENCING FRISBEE GOLF HIKING IN-LINE SKATING
KARATE KAYAKING KICKBOXING MOUNTAIN BIKING ORIENTEERING PILATES
RACKETLON ROCK CLIMBING SCULLING SQUASH SWIMMING T'AI CHI TENNIS
VOLLEYBALL WATER SKIING... AND MORE!

DineAround the West End 2011:

Memorable & Festive!

The neighborhood was abuzz before this year's January 29th DineAround - about the BIG presence, the Very Important Guest that would make this year's seventh progressive dinner to benefit the programs of WECA like none other! No, it wasn't brand new West Enders Governor Dannel Malloy and his wife Cathy, though WECA was delighted and honored to welcome them as 1st time guests. It was the HUGE amount of snow that had piled up on our streets, yards & roofs in the snowiest January on record. The biggest concern was accommodating 100+ cars for parking at the Opening Reception on Prospect Avenue, narrowed to barely 2 lanes by the snow and ice. But the evening was saved by the excellent responsiveness of Mayor Pedro Segarra and Kevin Burnham, Hartford Public Works Director, who approved and facilitated turning Prospect Avenue into a virtual parking lot for our event via an extra plowing and making the block one-way for the reception. WECA also thanks all the neighbors on Prospect Ave for their understanding and patience that night.

In spite of the challenging conditions, 250 hardy West Enders, hosts, guests and sponsors, were determined to and did have a wonderful time at DineAround the West End 2011. The bash began with wine and plentiful hors d'oeuvres, donated by The

Village for Families & Children, at the fabulous home of Paddi LeShane and Patrick Sullivan on Prospect Avenue. Dinners, at 27 homes throughout the neighborhood, were exceptional, and the planning committee is deeply grateful to our wonderful and generous dinner hosts who all spent many hours planning, shopping for, preparing and presenting their meals. The Pond House Café generously donated all the yummy desserts and coffee service for the Dessert Reception at the beautiful home of Michele Parrotta and Lesley Skenderian on Scarborough Street.

WECA could not present this event in the way the neighborhood has come to anticipate without the support of our generous sponsors, and we encourage West Enders to patronize their businesses:

Platinum Candelabras:

Pond House Café - Louis Lista
The Village for Families and Children - Galo Rodriguez

Gold Chargers:

Mollie Abend-West End Realtor
Clemens Place
Amy and Kyle Bergquist- West End Real Estate News
DeVars-Phillips Florist & Antiques
Susie Hatch, Realtor, and Ross Hatch
Linda Jorgensen, Wealth Advisor, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney and George Jorgensen
Hi Way Package Store - Gail and Jerry Powell
Law Firm of Berman, Bourns, Aaron & Dembo, LLC
Oxford Builders-Christian and Kate Winkley

Silver Trays:

American Materials Corporation - Don and Kathy Bercowetz
Bonnie Bevans - BRealEstate.net
DJM Carpentry & Design, LLC- Dave Monaco
O'Connell, Flaherty & Attmore, LLC- Michael and Gwen O'Connell
Matt Ritter Political Committee

Crystal Flutes:

Cathy Bates Event Planning
Nancy and Tito Gautier
JAPANALIA Eiko/JAPANALIA on one!
Joe and Karen Hewes
Law Offices of Zlokower & Miller, LLP
Martha Page and Bill Young

WECA would like to thank Jordan Klein for taking photographs at the Opening and Dessert Receptions, and to recognize the hardworking planning committee, which devotes countless hours to ensure the best possible DineAround each year. Under the leadership of Co-chairs Fi Bookwalter and Jan Klein and WECA President David Barrett, this year's committee consisted of Kathy Bercowetz, Eleanor and Dale Blake, Mark Fisher, Tracy Gale, David Klein, Sally Lerman and Karen Will. Mark your calendars for "same time next year" for the West End's signature gathering, and remember:

*"One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well."
- Virginia Woolf*